

THE CONNECTICUT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

ADVISORY BOARD

Good afternoon Senator Slossberg and Representative Abercrombie. I am here to support Bill 594.

My name is Charlee Tufts, and I am Vice Chair of the Connecticut EMS Advisory Board, and Chair of the Advisory Board's Legislative Committee.

The Advisory Board was formed by the legislature in 1997 to represent all facets of EMS in delivery of EMS patient care, and to advise the legislature the Governor and the Commissioner of the Department of Health.

Medicaid rates have been woefully deficient over the years in supporting the cost per transport of Medicaid patients. Last years 10% decrease further impacted every 911 service in CT. State-wide 15-17% Of patients transported are Medicaid.

A federal study was recently by the Government Accountability Office that the range of cost for EMS patient transport at \$400-\$75, with a median cost of \$429. Every time a Medicaid patient is transported the service loses \$223 of that\$429 cost of service.

This will lead to a decrease in service with the only solution is to seek community financial support for an unfunded tax mandate.

I urge you to support bill # 594.